AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented system for managing a flow of network status messages to a network operations console, comprising:

a processor; and

a computer readable medium encoded with processor readable instructions that when executed by the processor implement,

a network status gathering mechanism configured to ascertain a network status,

a network status reporting mechanism configured to report said network status to said network operations console, and

a network status reporting level determination mechanism configured to determine a level of detail to report said network status to said network operations console based on at least one of a user request and a predetermined allocation of bandwidth for use in reporting network status;

wherein regardless of the user request, the level of detail is limited to a maximal level permitted by available bandwidth.

- 2. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein: said network status reporting level determination mechanism is configured to determine said level of detail on a switch-by switch basis.
- 3. (Currently Amended) A method of managing a flow of network status messages to a network operations console, comprising the steps of: gathering network status; determining a reporting level at which to report network status based

on at least one of <u>a</u> user request and a predetermined allocation of bandwidth for use in providing network status; and

providing network status to said network operations console at said reporting level from said determining step;

wherein regardless of the user request, the reporting level is limited to a maximal level permitted by available bandwidth.

4. (Currently Amended) A system for managing a flow of network status messages to a network operations console, comprising:

means for gathering network status;

means for determining a reporting level at which to report network status based on at least one of user a request and a predetermined allocation of bandwidth for use in providing network status; and

means for providing network status to said network operations console at said reporting level from said determining step;

wherein regardless of the user request, the reporting level is limited to a maximal level permitted by available bandwidth.

5. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, comprising:
a computer storage medium and a computer program code
mechanism embedded in the computer storage medium for causing a
processor to facilitate the management of a flow of network status messages
to a network operations console, the computer program code mechanism
comprising:

a first computer code device configured to gather a network status; a second computer code device configured to determine a reporting level at which to report network status based on at least one of a user request and a predetermined allocation of bandwidth for use in providing network status; and

a third computer code device configured to provide network status to said network operations console at said reporting level determined by said second computer code device;

wherein regardless of the user request, the reporting level is limited to a maximal level permitted by available bandwidth.